



ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

FAQ: SFY Local Juvenile Justice Funding

Why are you requiring Juvenile Justice Councils?

We want to encourage and support strong, collaborative governance groups across the entire state. We believe programs that are prioritized and led collaboratively by system and community stakeholders have a greater chance of succeeding – both initially and over the long-term – than isolated projects. We also believe they will be more easily sustained in the absence of federal funds.

What counts as a Juvenile Justice Council? Who needs to be included?

The Juvenile Court Act definition includes system stakeholders – county board, judge, public defender, prosecutor, probation, law enforcement etc. – and any other members appointed by the chairperson as needed to accomplish the council's purpose:

The purpose of a county juvenile justice council is to provide a forum for the development of a community-based interagency assessment of the local juvenile justice system, to develop a county juvenile justice plan for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, and to make recommendations to the county board, or county boards, for more effectively utilizing existing community resources in dealing with juveniles who are found to be involved in crime, or who are truant or have been suspended or expelled from school.

705 ILCS 405/6-12 (2)

As discussed in the application instructions, we recognize that a council may not be feasible in every jurisdiction for any number of reasons. We are willing to fund groups that are not formed in the manner described by the statute. Groups may have one or two system stakeholders or none at all. However, we expect all applicants to have or develop a local governance structure that is inclusive, collaborative, and responsible for data analysis, program planning, and oversight.

My community doesn't have a Juvenile Justice Council - What are my options?

The preferred option is to develop one. Your application can include plans for engaging stakeholders and starting a council.

If important stakeholders express unwillingness to participate in a council, a secondary alternative is to use another existing group to provide collaborative planning and oversight of your efforts. This might be a community justice coalition or restorative justice hub. We ask that you continue attempts to engage system partners and make note of your progress. You might also launch a brand new community collaborative if there are no existing groups. Juvenile Justice Council Funding Requests can support any of these options.

Who is eligible to apply?

Units of local government or non-profit agencies are eligible to be the lead program agency. Please note that one of our federal funding resources, Juvenile Accountability Block Grants, restrict funds to units of local government. To ensure we maximize these funds, we encourage units of local government to be the fiscal agency whenever possible. Local government includes, among other entities, counties, municipalities, townships, and school districts. Once a unit of local government is awarded funds, they may subcontract with non-profit groups.

How much should we apply for?

For Juvenile Justice Council Funding Requests, we expect funds will support a part-time council coordinator and/or resources for data collection or analysis. The council might also request funding for training or other technical assistance to develop or further its local plan. (Remember, no funding may be used for refreshments for meetings.)

For Program Funding Requests, requests may vary greatly based on the type of program proposed, the number of youth served, and the anticipated outcomes. The Commission has prioritized areas for program implementation and will generally look favorably on projects that are innovative, evidence-based, designed to leverage other resources, and/or fill a critical need.

My county receives a formula Juvenile Accountability Block Grant – Do I still need to submit an application?

Yes. JABG formula grantees will receive a separate notice regarding their federally-designated funding for SFY 2016. These jurisdictions still need to apply as part of a juvenile justice council or make plans to develop a council. (Note that JABG grants already have requirements for local governance, known as a Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition. The local council described in the application should fulfill this requirement.)

What if I have other questions?

Email them to Robert.Vickery@Illinois.gov. Any questions received by January 7 at 5:00pm will be addressed on the January 9 conference call. Call In: 888-494-4032 Code: 5329547331#. Responses to questions will be compiled and posted at <http://ijjc.illinois.gov/grants/apply>.